

### REMARKS

Claims 1-45 are pending. Claims 18-26 and 44 are canceled as directed to non-elected invention, claims 27-41 and 45 are withdrawn. Claims 1-17 and 43 are presented for examination.

#### Election of Invention:

The Examiner has applied a restriction of invention requirement. Applicants elect invention of group I, claims 1-17, drawn to the hydrogel without traverse.

#### Election of species:

The Examiner has applied a restriction of species requirement. Applicants elect the species defined by the following groups of the formula in claim 1:

Anti-arrhythmic agent: amiodarone

Anti-inflammatory agent: dexamethasone

Claims 1-17, and 43 read on the elected species.

#### Rejoinder of withdrawn claims:

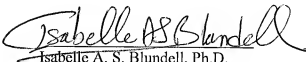
Applicants acknowledge the examiner's statements at paragraph 9 of the action, and wish to avail themselves of the opportunity of a rejoinder of invention of group III, claims 27-41 and 45, directed to the method of using the compositions of group I, when claims of elected invention has been found patentable. Thus applicants have maintained these claims as withdrawn while deleting the remaining claims to non-elected inventions without prejudice.

Applicants believe that all issues raised in the Office Action have been addressed in this reply and kindly request favorable consideration of the instant application.

Respectfully submitted,

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